



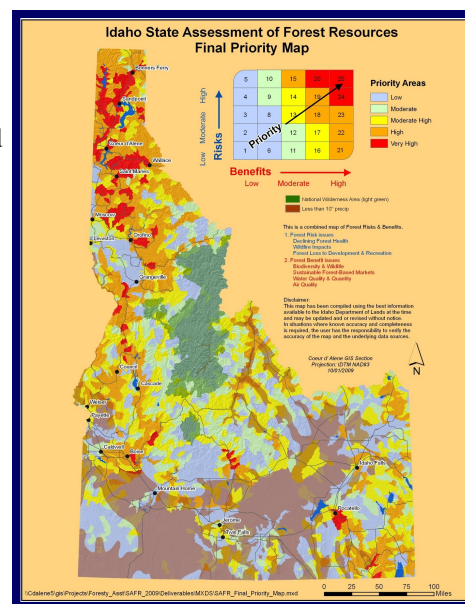
Idaho State Assessment of Forest Resources & Resource Strategy

About the State Assessment of Forest Resources

The US Forest Service provides funding to states for programs to improve the health, productivity, benefits and extent of state, private and urban forests. These are referred to as State and Private Forestry Programs. The 2008 Farm Bill and a “redesign” of State and Private Forestry programs require states to develop a Statewide Assessment of Forest Resources and Resource Strategies as a requisite to receive federal funding. The purpose is to ensure that federal resources are focused on landscape areas with the greatest opportunity to address shared priorities and achieve measurable outcomes.

The Statewide Assessment is a geospatial analysis of conditions and trends for all forested lands in Idaho. It delineates rural and urban forest areas that are the highest priority for projects and investments administered through State and Private Forestry programs. Threats to and benefits from forest resources are identified and form the foundation of the analysis. The Idaho Department of Lands, along with partner agencies and groups has completed the Statewide Assessment and is currently working on the Resource Strategy. The critical issues on which the assessment is based are listed on the following pages.

For more information on the Idaho Statewide Assessment of Forest Resources and the Resource Strategy, go to:
http://www.idl.idaho.gov/bureau/ForestAssist/safr_index.html



About the Forest Resource Strategy

The Idaho Forest Resource Strategy will be a long-term, comprehensive, coordinated plan for investing state, federal, and leveraged partner resources to address the critical issues and priority landscapes identified in the State Assessment of Forest Resources (SAFR).

The Resource Strategy will identify approaches for management, restoration and enhancement of forest resources in priority landscapes. A team of Idaho stakeholders—including state and federal agencies, tribes, organizations and advisory committees—has begun work on the Resource Strategy, and will have this completed by June 2010.

The Idaho Resource Strategy will:

- Identify priority landscapes based upon the results of the SAFR.

- Describe long-term strategies to address issues within the priority landscapes. It will cover a timeframe of at least five (5) years.
- Identify how federal, state, private and other resources could be invested and aligned to address critical issues in priority landscapes that cross ownerships.
- Identify how State & Private Forestry program areas can contribute to long-term goals and strategies.
- Provide a timeline to implement strategies and identify measures of success.
- Describe how the State will address

(Continued on page 2)

About Idaho's Statewide Forest Resource Strategy

(Continued from page 1)

national State & Private Forestry priorities and objectives. The three national priorities are:

- ◇ conserve working forest lands;
- ◇ protect forests from harm; and
- ◇ enhance public benefits from trees and forests.

- Describe how strategies will be used to design annual plans and actions, and how outcomes will be monitored and strategies revised.

Benefits to Idaho

The assessment and resource strategies are not meant to be policy, tell any land manager what they should do on the lands they manage, or be overly detailed.

However, this effort *will* help land managers utilize limited resources more strategically and identify opportunities for collaboration.

It will help us identify and FOCUS on the issues of greatest importance, PRIORITIZE our work based on where

these issues are greatest; and achieve measurable OUTCOMES that benefit all lands. This effort will help Idaho land managers and stakeholders recognize opportunities to work together, develop collaborative projects and leverage resources to increase benefits on a landscape scale.

Strategies will address three national priorities:

- ◇ Conserve working forest lands;
- ◇ Protect forests from harm;
- ◇ Enhance public benefits from trees and forests.

The assessments and strategies cover all forest lands and include all State and Private Forestry programs. These are: Forest Stewardship, Urban and Com-

munity Forestry, Forest Health, Forest Legacy and the National Fire Plan. All future investments of Federal funds will tie back to these strategies.

Critical Forest Issues—Threats and Benefits

The stakeholders working on the SAFR have identified eight key issues divided into two categories—those that threaten forests, and those for which forests provide benefit.

Issues that threaten forests are:

- Risk to communities and ecosystems from *uncharacteristic wildland fire*;
- Those that impact *forest health*, including insects and diseases, noxious

terrestrial weeds and climate change;

- Potential loss of canopy to *development, urbanization and ORV recreation in undesignated areas*.

Issues for which forests and trees provide benefit are:

- Potential benefit to *sustainable forest-based wood products markets*.
- Potential benefit to *water quality and quantity*;

- Potential benefit to *air quality*;
- Potential benefit to *wildlife and biodiversity*, including fish and wildlife, areas of high conservation value and federally listed threatened and endangered species;
- *Connecting people with forests* (this last issue is not expressed geospatially, but will be integrated into resource strategies.)

See the next page for additional details.

Who is Working on the Idaho SAFR and Resource Strategies?

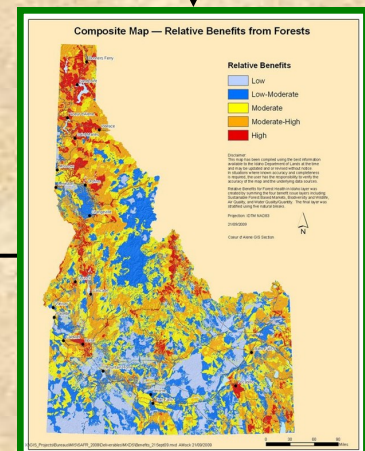
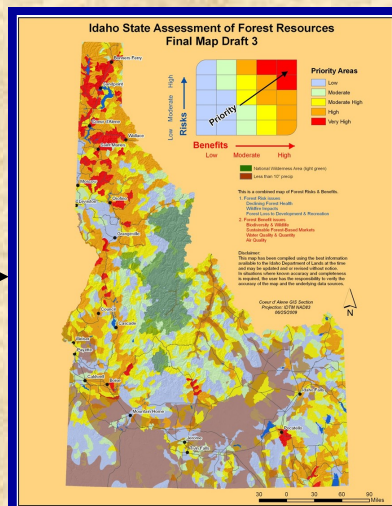
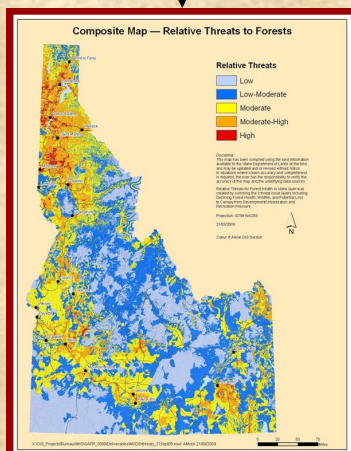
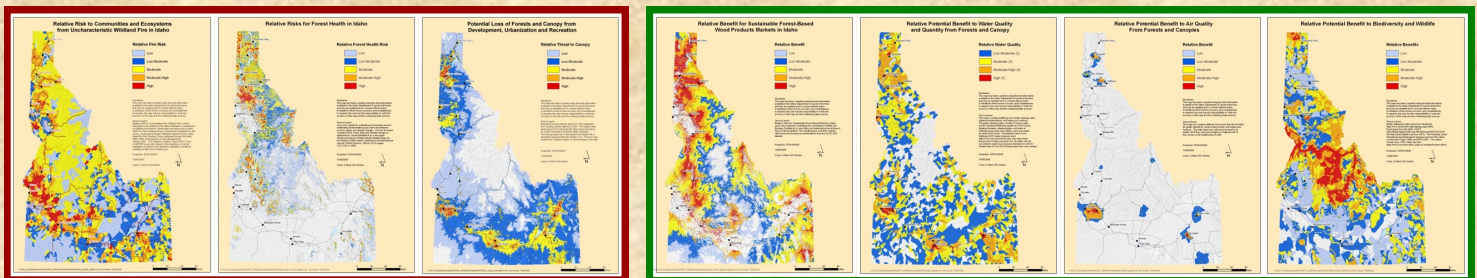
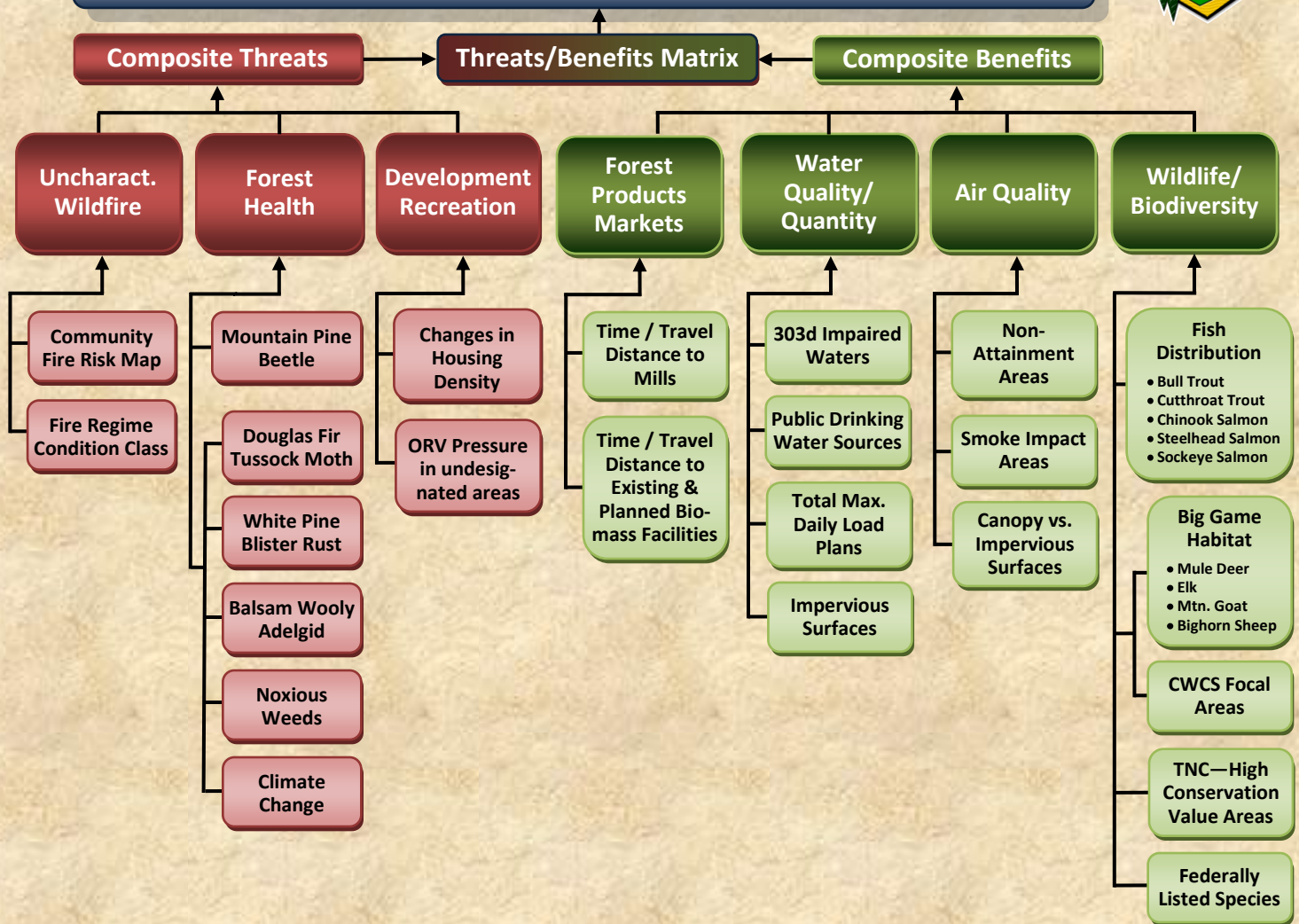
Idaho Department of Lands is the Lead Agency. A diverse group of partners is actively participating, including:

- Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
- Idaho Department of Fish & Game,
- Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation
- Idaho Community Forestry Advisory Council
- Idaho Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee
- Idaho Resource Conservation & Development Councils
- Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group
- Idaho Technical Committee
- Idaho Forest Owners Association

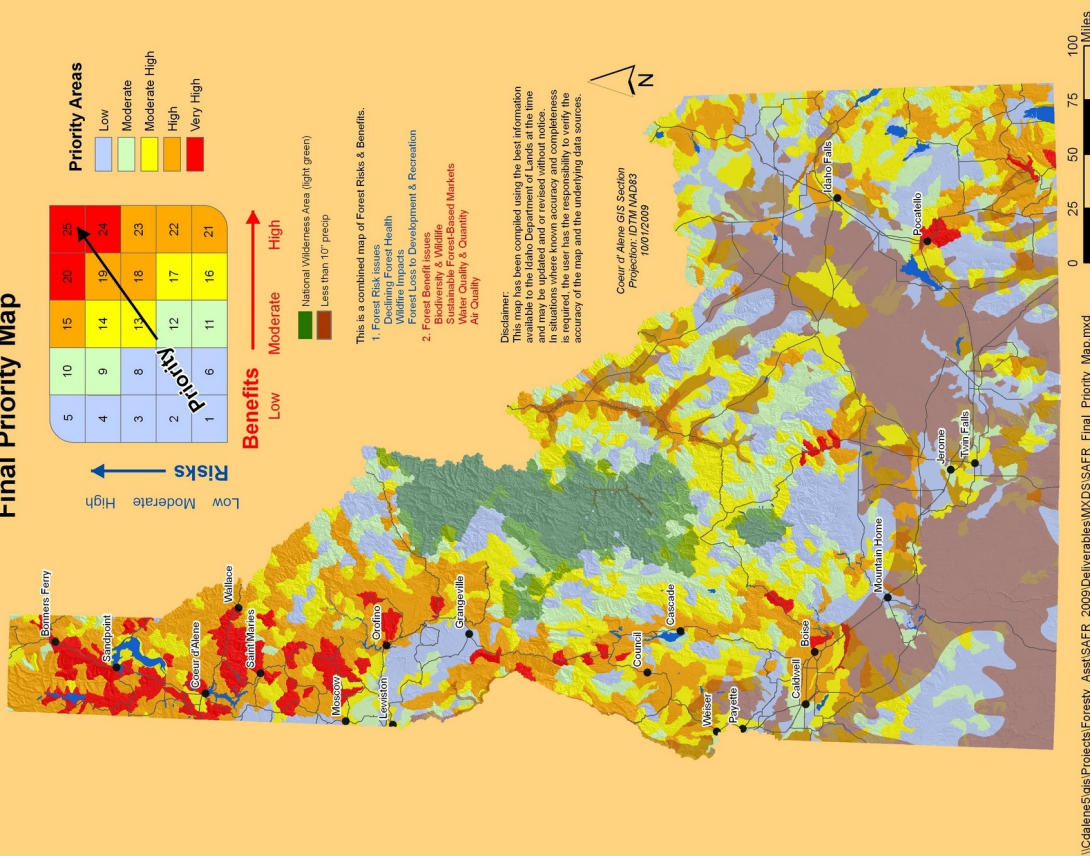
- Intermountain Forest Association
- Coeur d'Alene Tribe
- Nez Perce Tribe
- The Nature Conservancy
- University of Idaho
- USDA Forest Service
- USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service
- USDI Bureau of Land Management
- Resource professionals

For more information, contact project co-leads: David Stephenson—dstephenson@idl.idaho.gov; 208-666-8621 or Steve Kimball—skimball@idl.idaho.gov; 208-666-8646

Idaho State Assessment of Forest Resources—Priority Areas

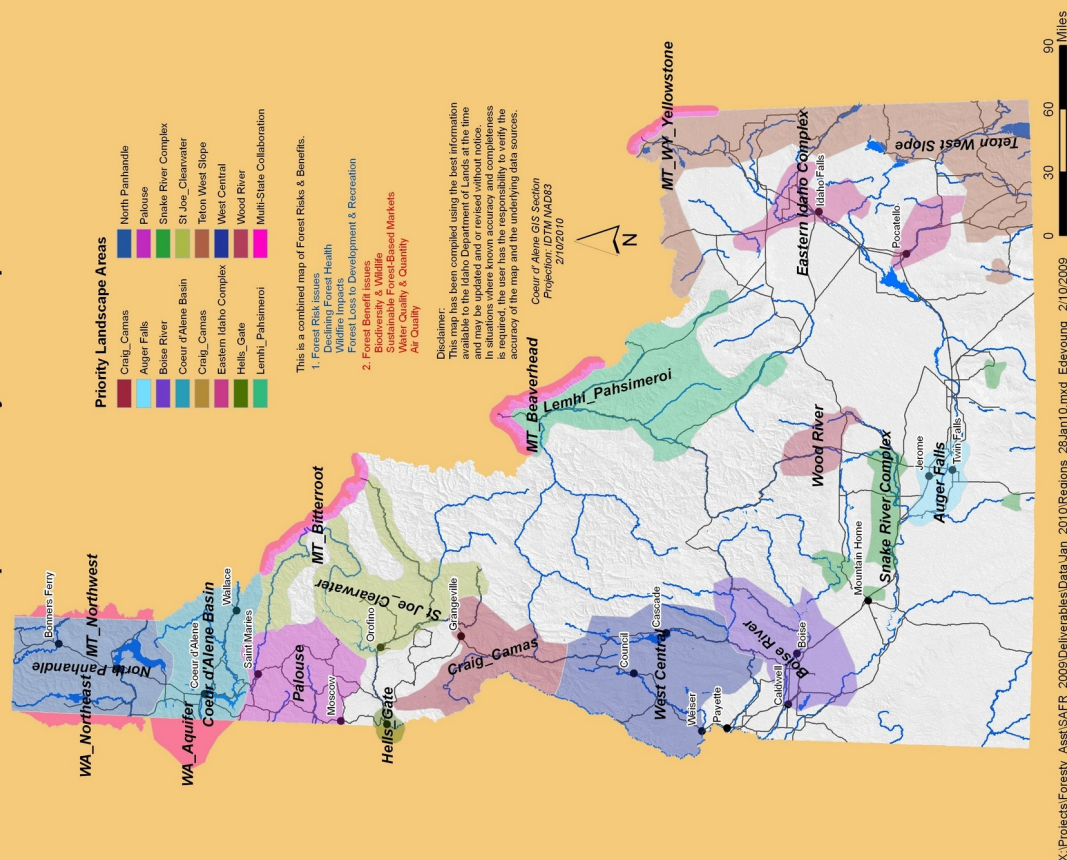


Idaho State Assessment of Forest Resources Final Priority Map



This map shows the results of the geospatial State Assessment of Forest Resources. Subwatersheds in red and orange indicate high priority areas relative to other areas of the state for the identified issues and using the best available statewide data. It does not mean that other areas are not a priority or do not have critical issues that need to be addressed. Rather, it is a guide to assist land managers focus investments in areas where doing so can have the greatest impact on the most critical issues identified by the broad stakeholder group.

Idaho State Assessment of Forest Resources Draft Proposed Priority Landscape Areas



Priority Landscape Areas were developed from the map at left. These are generalized areas in which goals and strategies will be developed. In addition to information derived from the geospatial assessment, trends, conditions, issues and opportunities for collaboration will be identified locally and become part of the overall State Forest Resource Strategy. Boundaries are meant to be pliable, adjustable to fit developing strategies/actions. The Forest Resource Strategies are meant to be dynamic, and modified as conditions change, new information is obtained and work is completed.